

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,940,861 to Brown *et al.* ("Brown") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,170,471 to Bonevento *et al.* ("Bonevento"). Applicant has canceled claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Brown in view of Bonevento. Claim 6 is a multiple dependent claim depending from either claim 4 or claim 5, both of which are patentable as indicated below. Claim 6 is therefore patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 4 and 5 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 4 and 5 in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4 and 5 are patentable over the prior art.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added new claims 7-10. Since such claims depend upon claim 4 or 5, Applicant submits that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Appln. No. 10/046,160

Atty. Docket No. Q68114

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Grant K. Rowan
Registration No. 41,278

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 27, 2006